

EPISODE #85
April 8, 1993

The Valley COMIC NEWS

ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:
SNOW JOBS
BORIS BAD ENOUGH
QUIT IT, OR I'LL KILL YOU
BEYOND POLITIX
OTHER STUFF

Jim Kwikinson



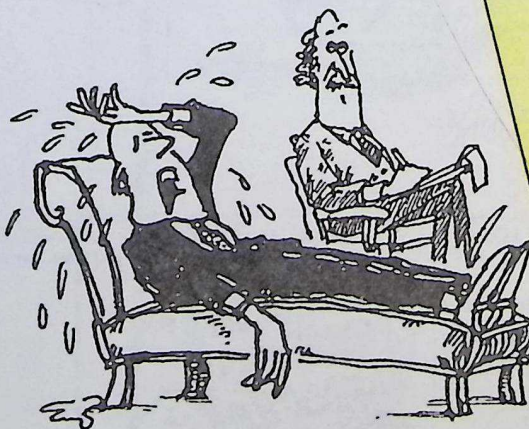
BLACKS
IN HIGH
ELECTED OFFICE



GAYS
IN THE
MILITARY



WOMEN
IN THE
CLERGY



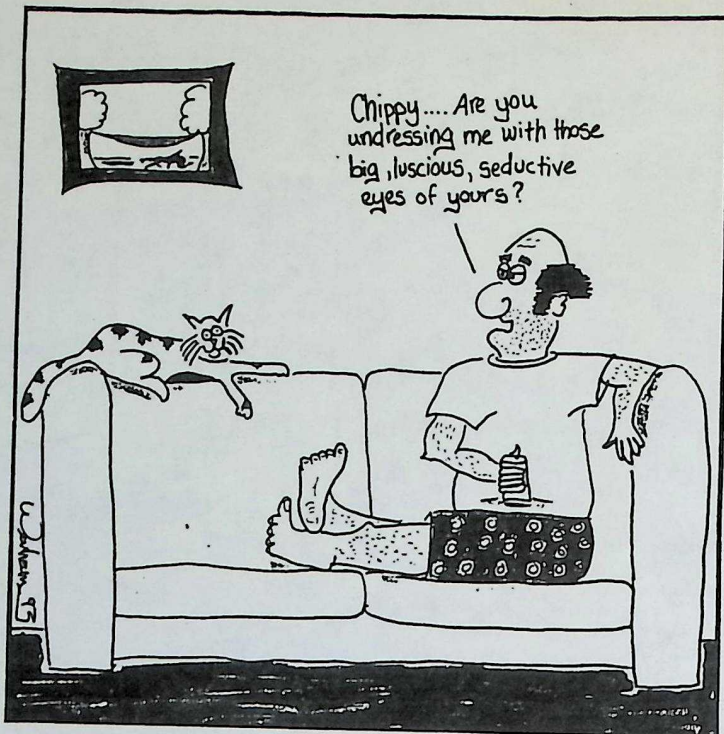
CONSERVATIVES
IN
DENIAL

INSIDE

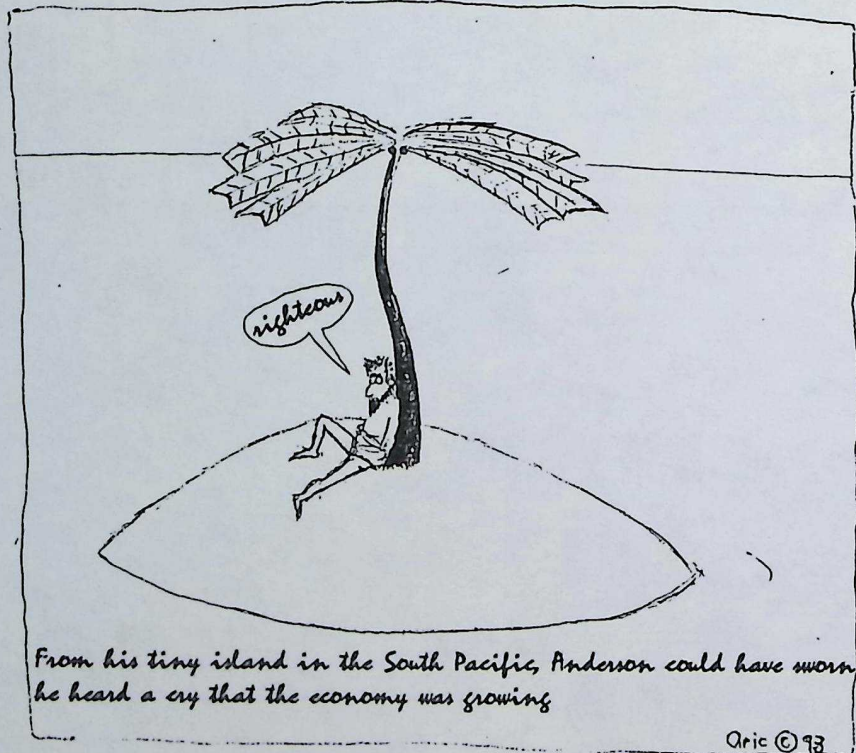
FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
IZZY GESELL'S HUMOR ME,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
LOCAL HEROES,
WILMINGTON,
EARTHWEEK



LOCAL HEROES



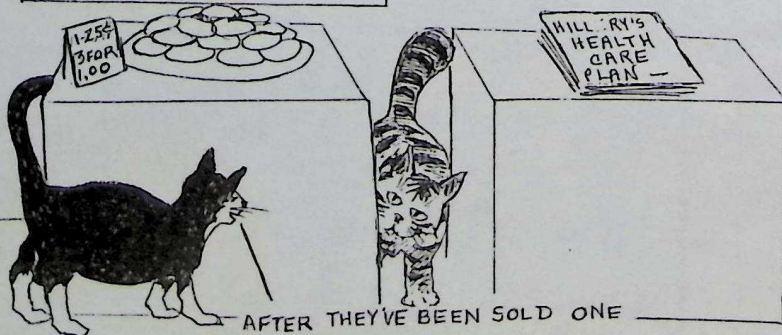
A lonely Saturday night with Lou and his cat



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YOU GAIN - WHILE RELIEVING OUR PAIN-
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(A SECRET RECIPE)

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AFTER THEY'VE BEEN SOLD ONE "BILL" OF GOODS - THEY'LL NEED TO SIGN UP FOR THE OTHER ONE!

F. JAMES CORWIN '93 ©



A Senseless, but well organized protest

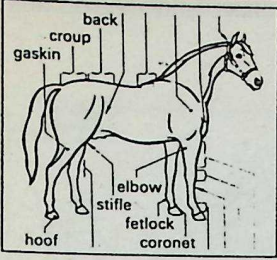


THINK'R



PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



The other day I overheard somebody saying, "I love horseback riding." This was a person who by all outward appearances was in full control of her faculties. Now, I know lots of you are going, "Hey, hold on, Mike — horses are great. I like desperately hanging onto a 1,000-pound animal at speeds up to 40 miles an hour." Well, I just want to tell you that I personally want to go horseback riding about as much as I want to go stunt-walking on a biplane. And now some of you are probably saying, "Mike, Mike — where's your sense

of adventure? And besides, you've got all those wires to hang onto."

OK, so maybe I'd rather stunt-walk on a biplane. At least biplanes aren't actively plotting to throw me off. And don't tell me I don't know horses. I know them plenty well, thank you. When I was sixteen I took care of a bunch of horses during the summer for some rich people who went on vacation and thought it would be neat to have a teenager mind the menagerie, so they could take bets on how quickly the teenager would be seriously maimed or killed. I was pretty agile in those days, so the horses never did get me, but they were planning to.

Horses, you know — despite their plotting abilities — are not really very bright. They'll eat themselves to death, for just one example. How smart do you have to be to not eat yourself to death? I can just hear them in the pasture: "Yo, Blaze, I'm really full and I feel really sick. Think I should quit eating?" "Nah, stuff some more in, ya coward. Ya afraid ya might explode? Hahahahaha." As far as I know, the only other animals that eat themselves to death are tropical fish. Fish. Real leaders in the brains derby. Oh, and of course people, but it takes them years, or even decades. Horses do it on the spot.

My first memory of being on a horse is when I was about eight, and we went out to a neighbor's farm. There was an old horse named Prince, and after the neighbors chased him around the field for about an hour, he got tired enough that he let himself get caught.

They saddled the old boy up, then my dad climbed on and swung me up in front of him. For a while Prince just walked around, but then my dad did that clicking thing with his mouth that means "Do the words 'glue factory' resonate with you, Bozo?" And Prince was off like a bat out of hell, ears back, mane flying, my dad bouncing up and down and whooping like he actually wasn't in danger of wetting his pants, and me in front pretty much airborne all the time, using the saddle horn like a blimp uses a mooring post.

After the ride, when I could speak in complete sentences again, I made a solemn eight-year-old vow that I would never get on a horse again unless I learned how to ride. Now, of course, I understand how foolish that vow was, because in my adult wisdom I understand that the phrase "learning to ride" is as meaningful as the phrase "learning to breathe underwater."

It's simple, really: horses don't want me on their backs. They have made this perfectly clear during our time together on this planet. And I respect that. I would ride a dog in a second, if dogs grew to 1,000 pounds. A dog would care if I stayed on his back. He'd get lonely if I fell off, and come looking for me. Heck, I'd even ride a 1,000-pound cat. If a cat threw me off, at least it'd hang around as long as I made noises like I was opening a cat food can. But a horse — the instant a horse flipped me into the sticker bushes, it'd make serious tracks for the barn to see if somebody'd left a grain bin open so it could eat itself to death. No — no horses for me, thanks. If I have a choice, I'll take biplanes every time.

The Valley Comic News

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Thanx to Jody Segar

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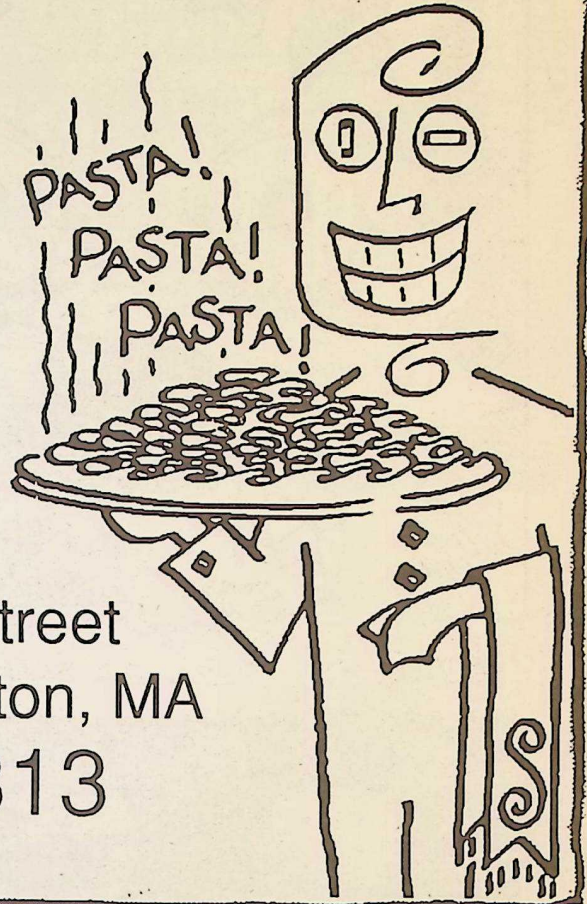
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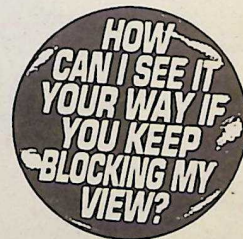
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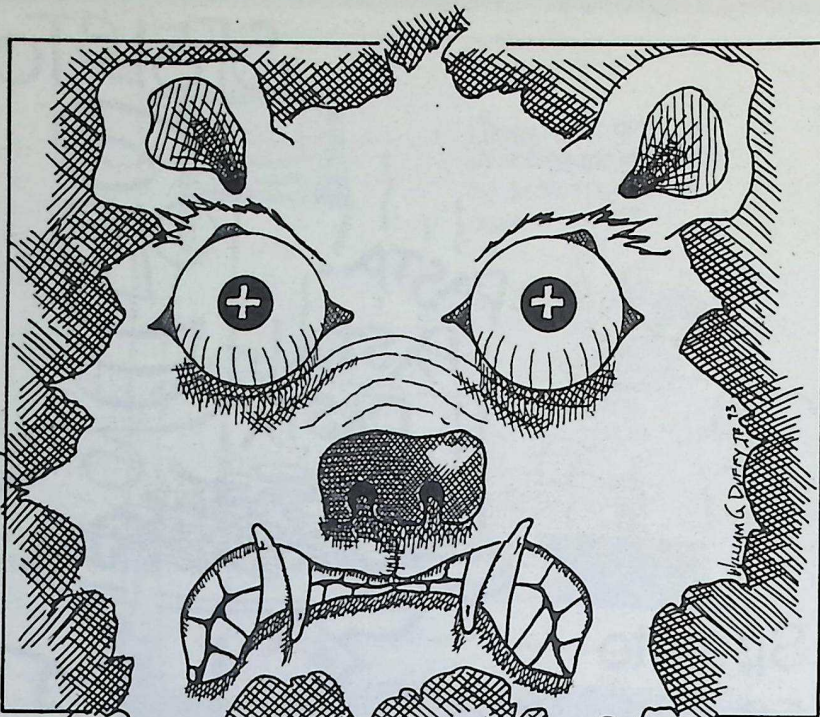
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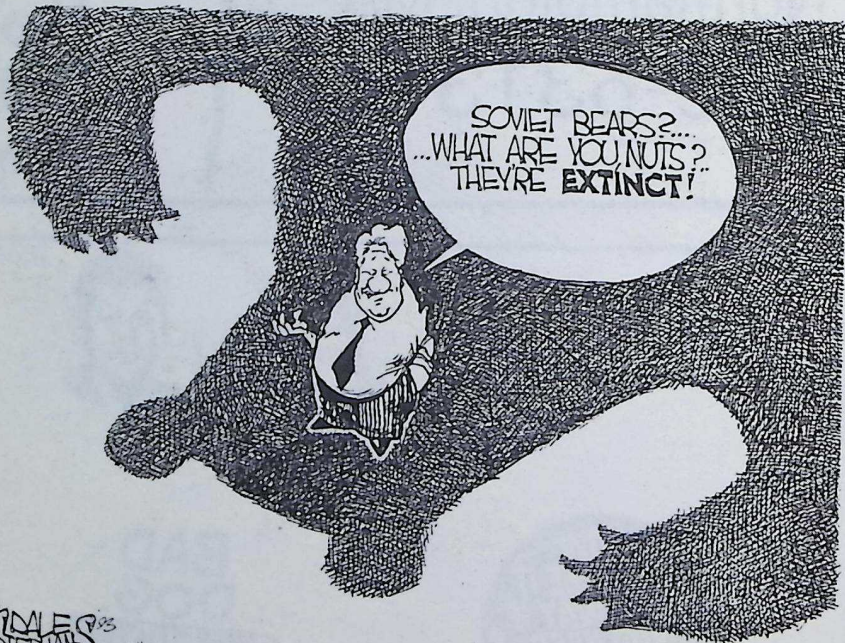
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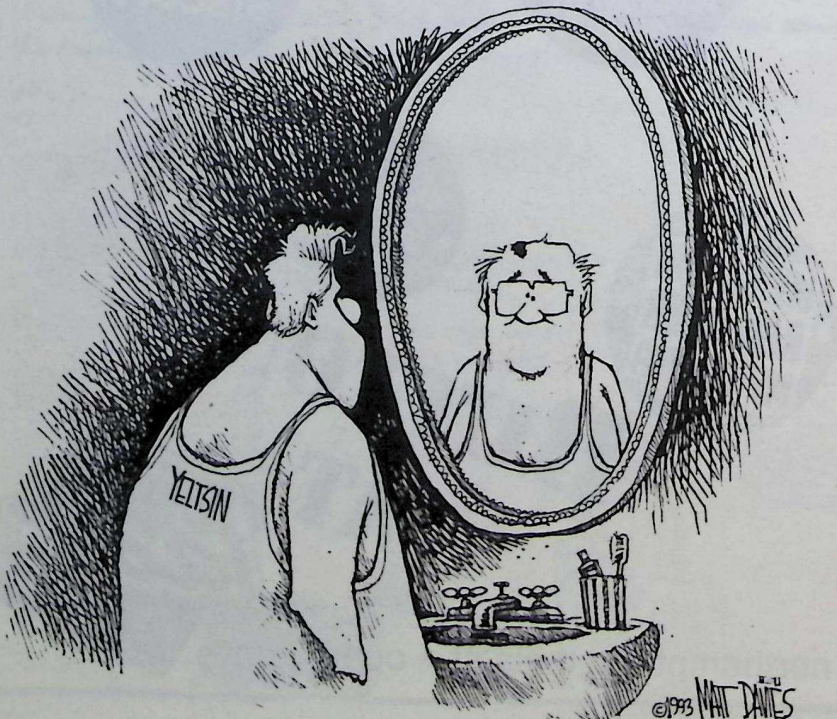
BORIS BAD ENOUGH



YELTSIN TAKES THE BEAR BY THE "HORNS"

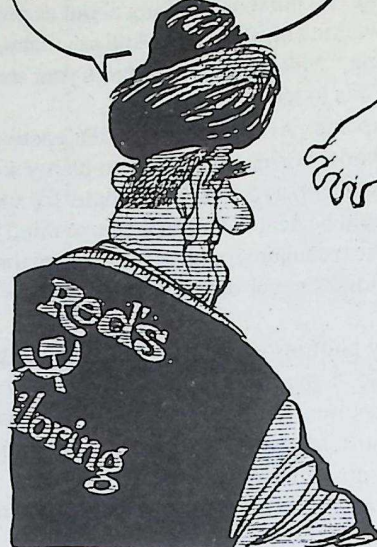


SMILES DEHANS

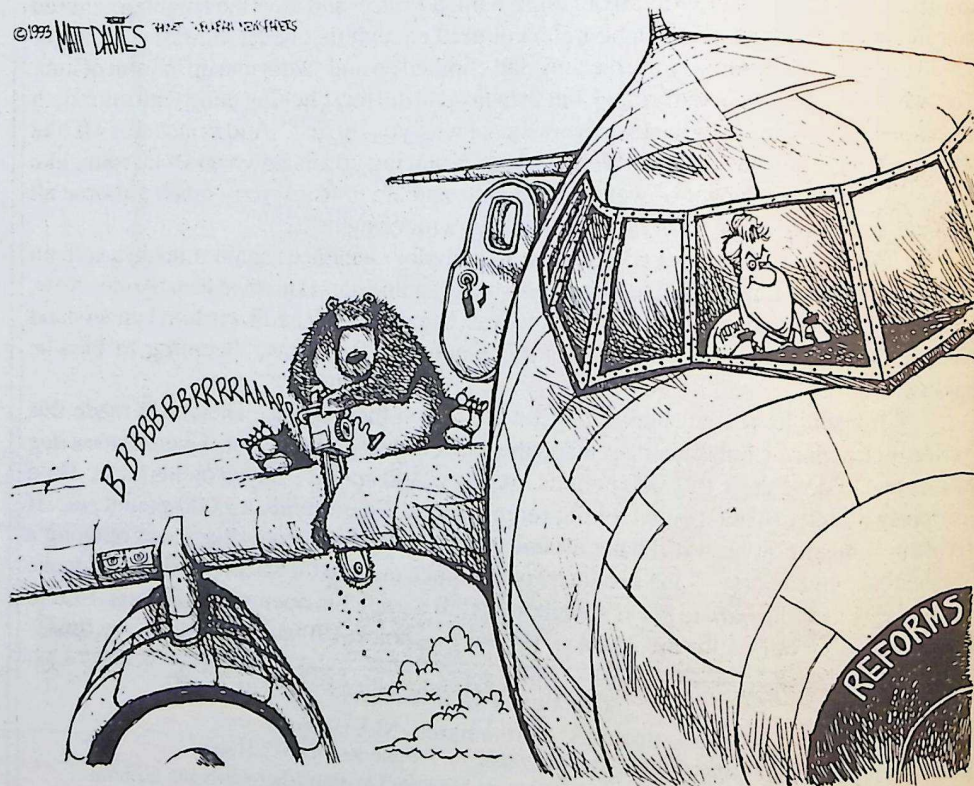


MATT DAVIES

THERE'S YOUR NEW SUIT PRESIDENT VELTSIN... I MUST SAY... IT'S YOU!

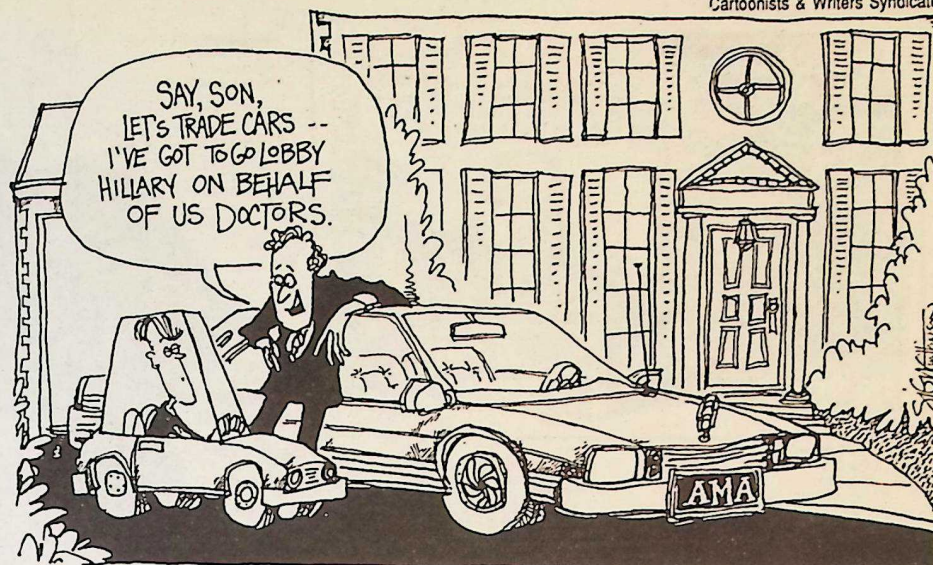
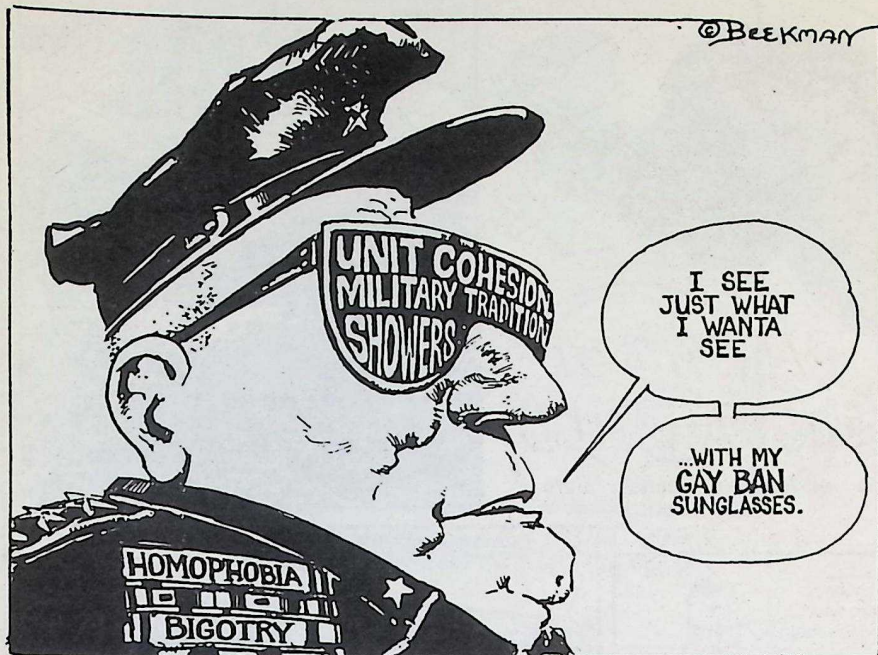


MATT DAVIES

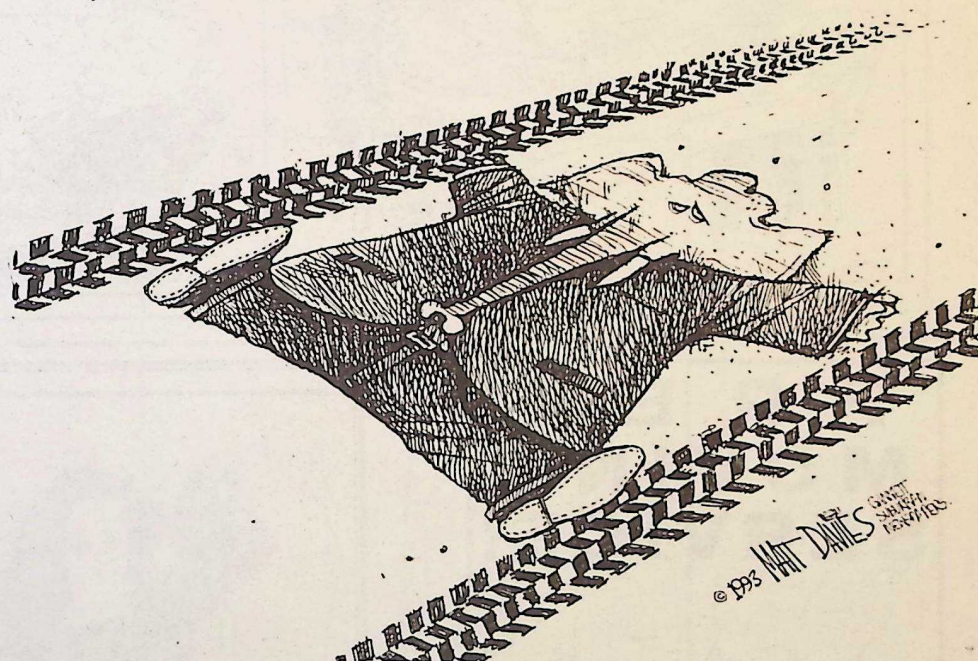
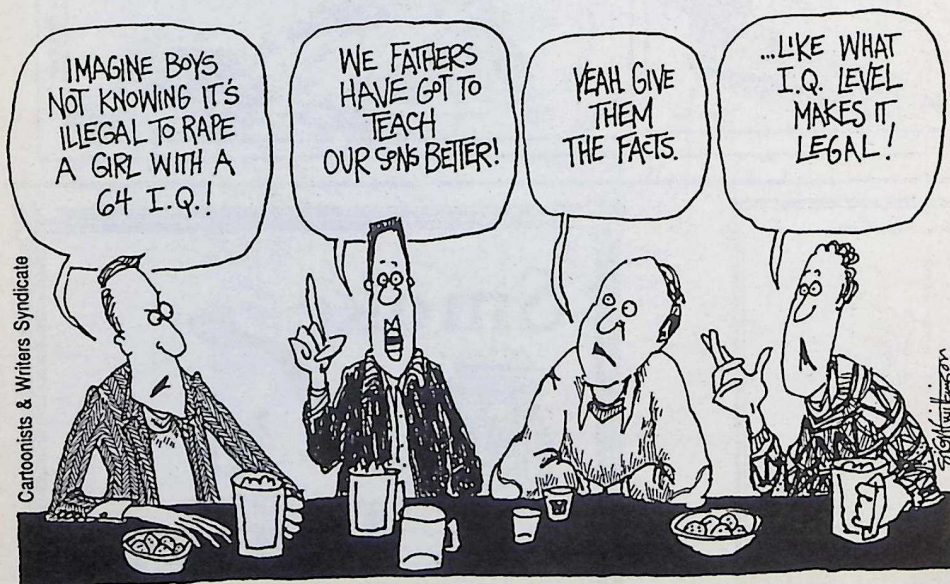


SMILES DEHANS

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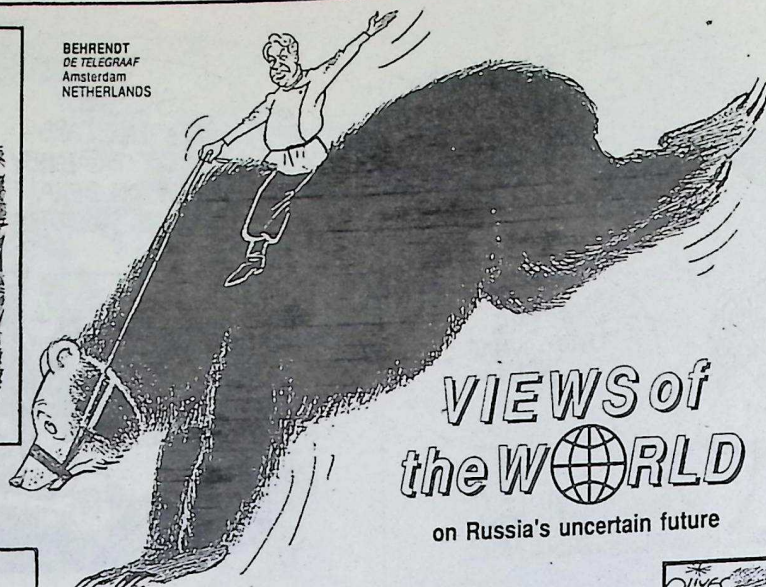


VIEWS OF THE WORLD



PETERSON
THE SUN
Vancouver
CANADA

BEHRENDT
DE TELEGRAAF
Amsterdam
NETHERLANDS

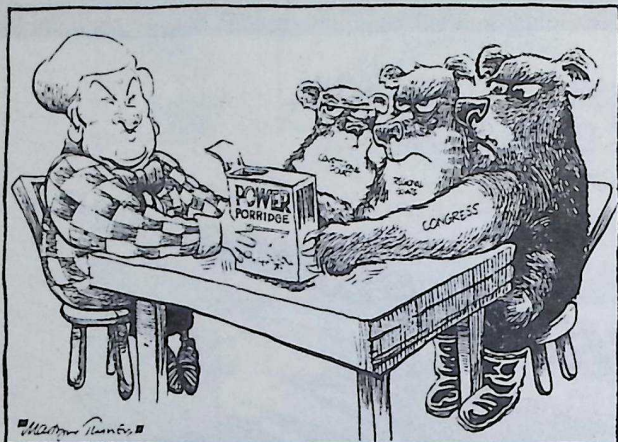


VIEWS of
the WORLD
on Russia's uncertain future



IQUE

IQUE
JORNAL DO BRASIL
Rio de Janeiro
BRAZIL



TURNER
THE IRISH TIMES
Dublin
IRELAND



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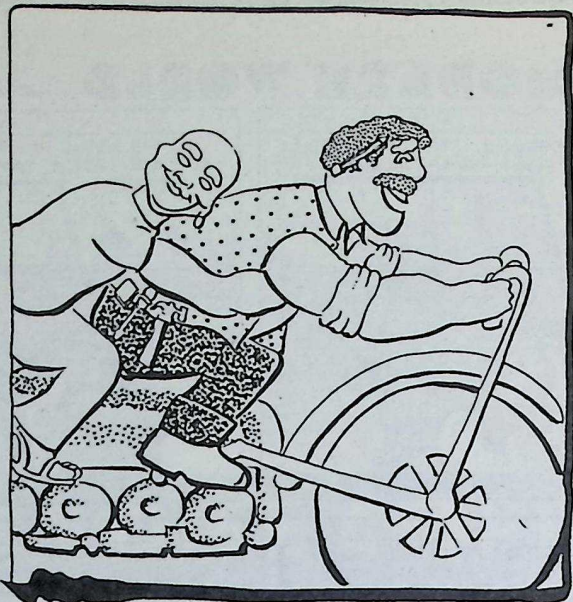
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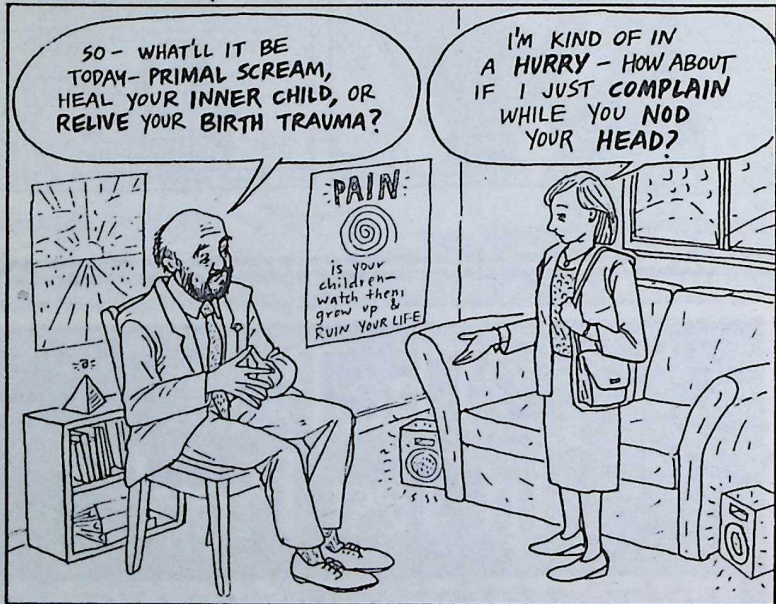
OFF THE DEEP END © 1990 AND © 1993



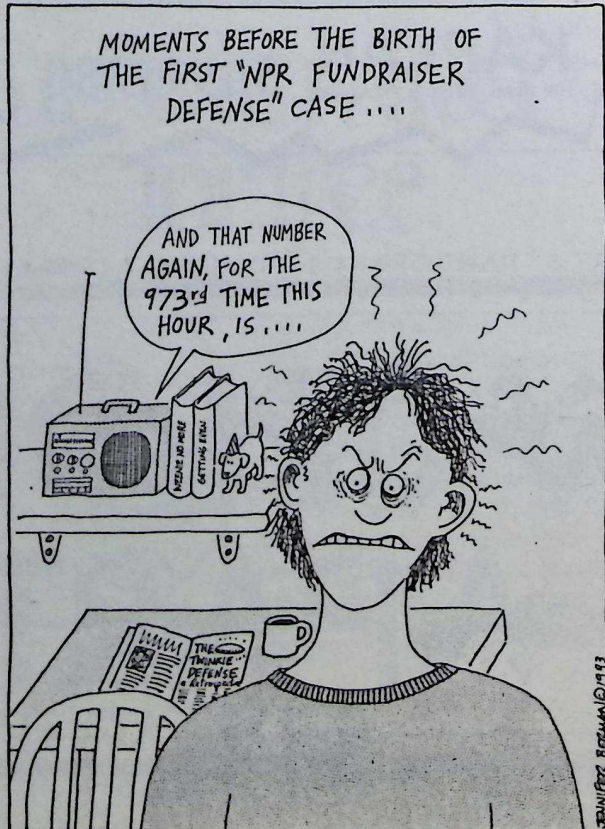
MR. CLEAN AND HANDY ANDY ABANDON THEIR JOBS AND HEAD WEST TO FIND THEMSELVES.

STIVERS

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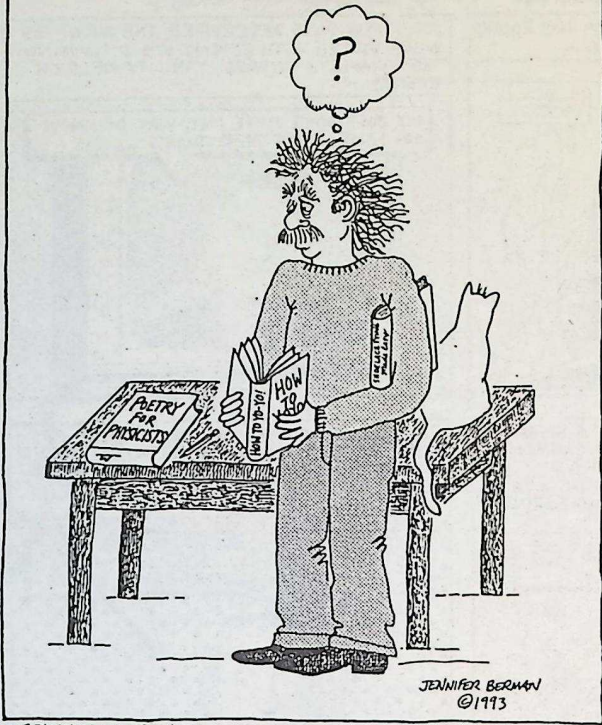


BERMAN by Jennifer Berman



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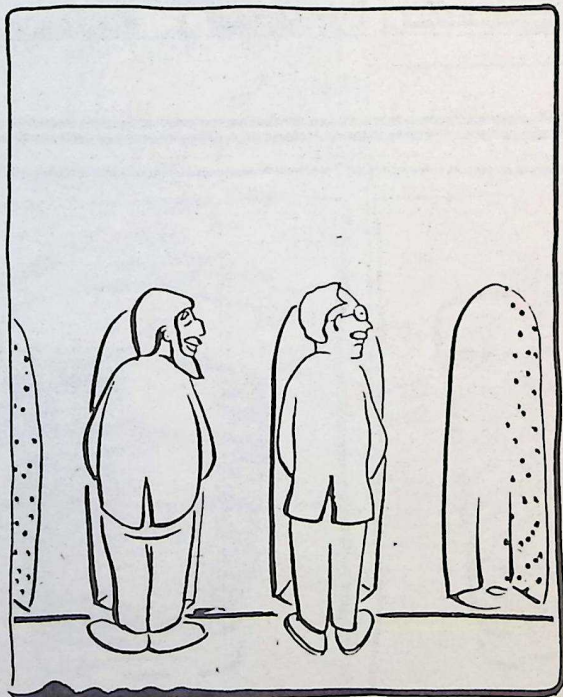
SAVANT IDIOT



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BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

JENNIFER BERMAN ©1993

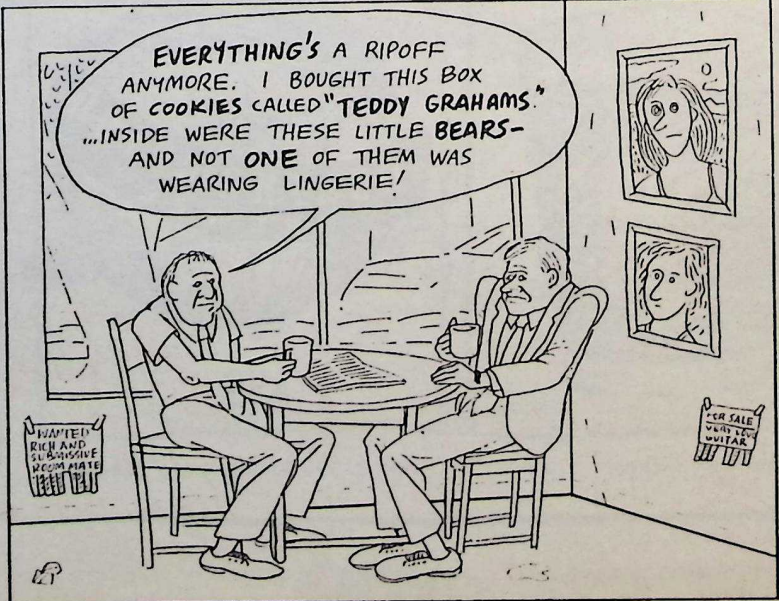


JUNG, TOO PROUD TO LOOK AT FREUD'S, KNOWS THAT FREUD IS SIZING HIM UP EVEN AS HE TURNS THE OTHER WAY.

OFF THE DEEP END © 1991 Andrew Lerman

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THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

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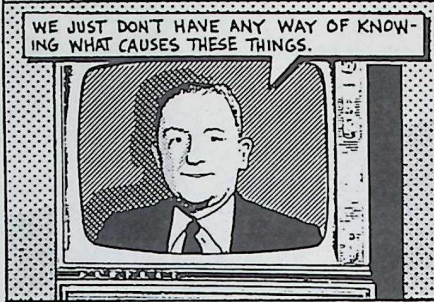
LAST MONTH, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WAS ROCKED BY TWO POWERFUL EARTHQUAKES...



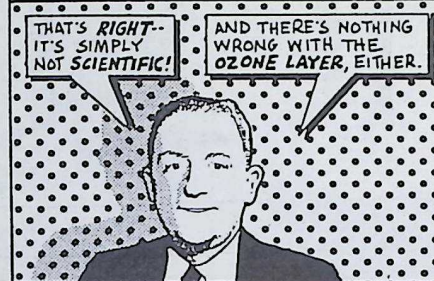
NO ONE MENTIONED THE FACT THAT A WEEK PRIOR TO THE QUAKE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (EVIDENTLY UNAWARE THAT THE COLD WAR HAS ENDED) EXPLODED TWO 20-KILOTON NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDERGROUND IN NEIGHBORING NEVADA--



FOR A FEW DAYS AFTERWARD, THE AIRWAVES WERE FILLED WITH SCIENTISTS DISCUSSING THE COMPLETE UNPREDICTABILITY OF SUCH EVENTS...

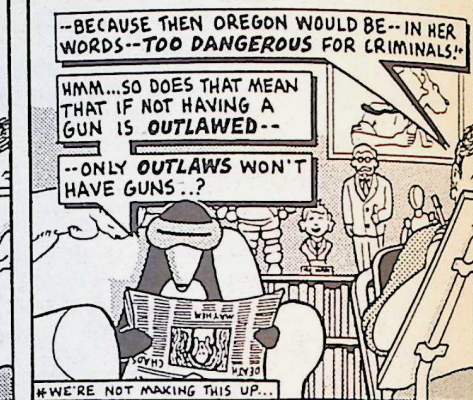
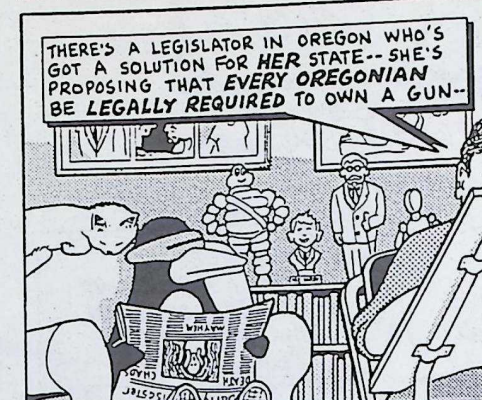
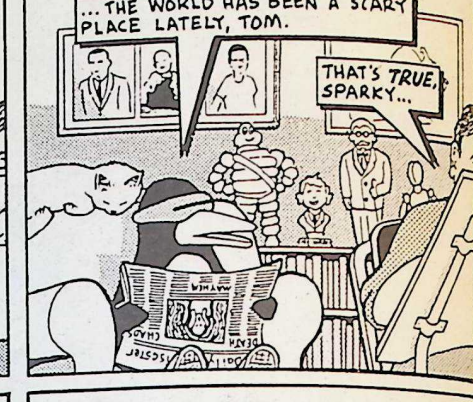
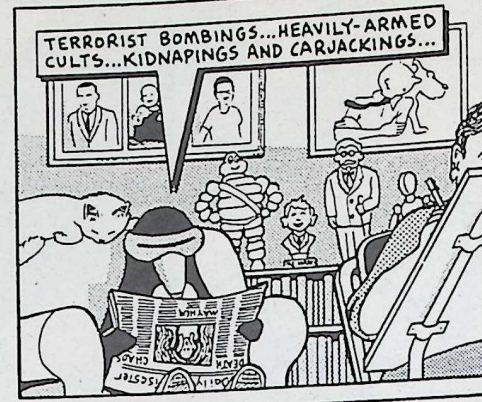


--BECAUSE, OF COURSE, HOW COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND SUBSEQUENT EARTHQUAKE ACTIVITY ON NEARBY FAULTLINES?



THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 3-23-93



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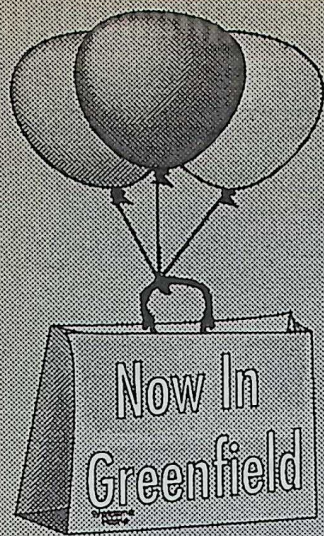
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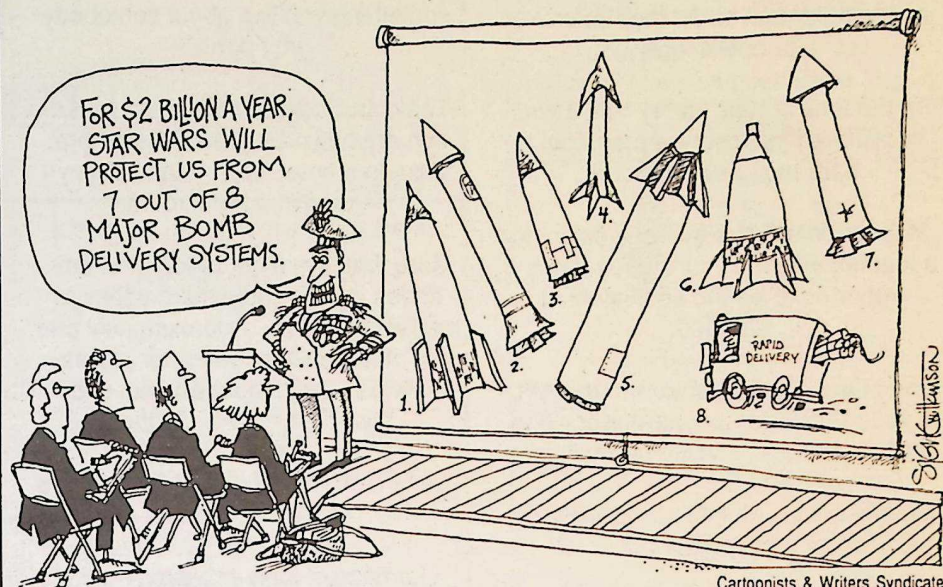
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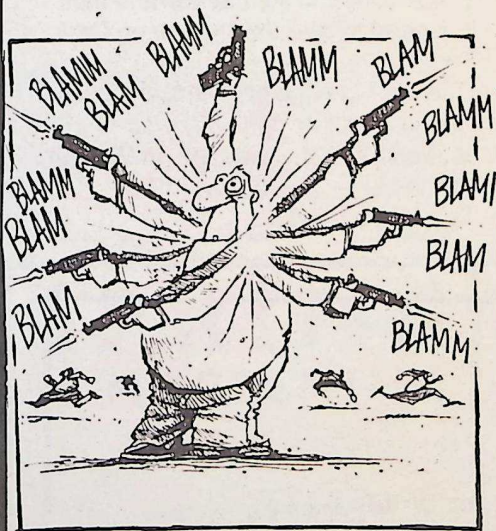


QUIT IT, OR I'LL KILL YOU

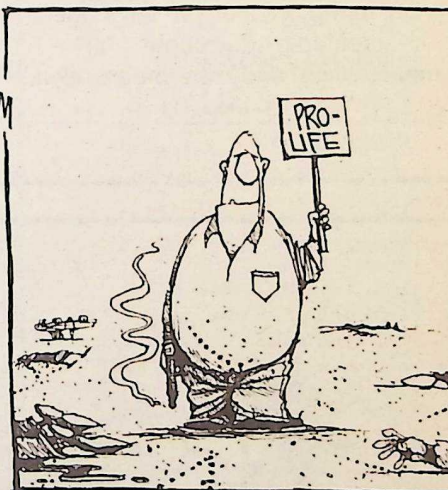
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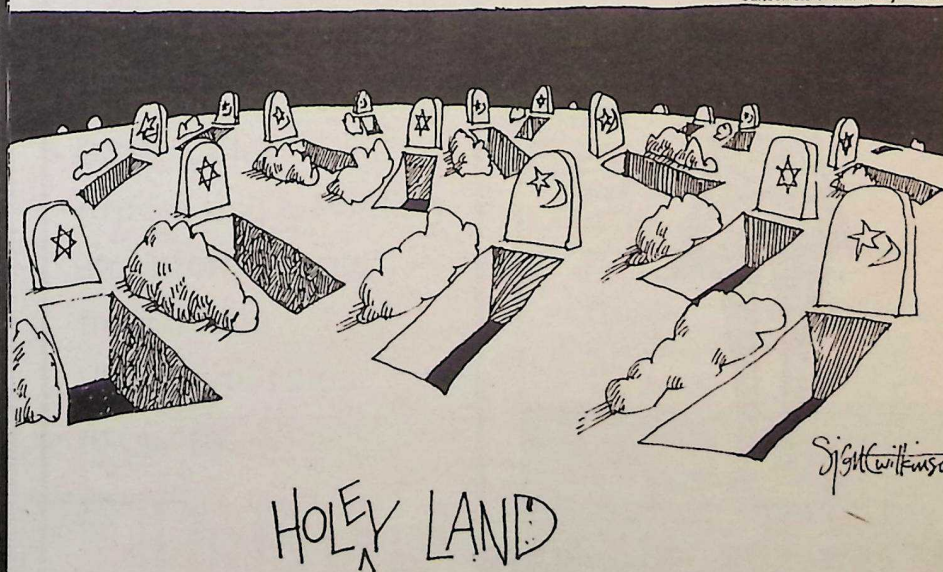
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. What's the largest bird that flies?

A. The mute swan. Up to 50 pounds with a nine-foot wingspan. Mute swans are tough birds: they've broken people's legs.

In the time of King Henry VIII, it was considered indecent for men, too, to bare their arms in public.

In Switzerland, the average salary for a teacher with ten years' experience is reported to be the equivalent of \$53,900.

One of the smallest unions in the AFL-CIO is "The International Association of Marble, Slate, and Stone Polishers, Rubbers, and Sawyers, Tile and Marble-Setters Helpers, and Terrazzo Helpers."

Foresters who measure the big trees always tape the trunk circumference four-and-a-half feet above the ground.

Q. Why did Edgar Rice Burroughs name his character "Tarzan"?

A. In the fictional ape language created by Burroughs, "tar" meant "white" and "zan" meant "skin."

A seventh of Ireland is bog.

A definition of gossip: When you hear something you like about somebody you don't.

The dying words of the great American dramatist Eugene O'Neill were: "Born in a hotel room — and damn it — died in a hotel room."

More than three out of four first-time brides tell the surveytakers they're marrying for love. Approximately one out of three second-time brides say likewise. Only about one out of six third-time brides say that.

The Scotch liqueur called Drambuie is made from honey.

Germans of long ago whimsically forecast the weather by the behavior of badgers. But the Germans who settled in Pennsylvania couldn't find any badgers, so they rewrote their legend to give us Groundhog Day.

The average age of American soldiers in the Revolutionary War was 18 1/2. In World War II, it was 26. In Vietnam, 19.

Q. How many people get caught in avalanches every year?

A. Approximately 140, of whom about 15 die, while the rest come out alive.

A matrimonial counselor writes: "If the two partners are able to discuss their marital relationship somewhat calmly and honestly, the marriage can probably be saved."

Chewing gum is banned in Singapore. An importer who gets caught bringing it in — even on a first offense — faces a \$7,190 fine and a year in jail.

No other animal has finer hair than the bat.

People who think they're "tone-deaf" aren't, according to music teachers.

They say that children can be burdened with the tone-deaf notion at an early age and believe it the rest of their lives, but in fact, most — maybe all — can learn to carry tunes.

Turnips have been cultivated for 4,000 years. Why?

The more deeply you concentrate, the more infrequently you blink your eyes.

Business reporters say that the twenty-third largest business enterprise in the United States is baseball memorabilia.

Food raised in China's Yangtze River basin feeds one out of every 15 people on earth.

A giraffe's tongue is blue.

The word "lampoon" comes from a long-ago cry of French students meaning, "Let's drink!"

The average person lives in a dozen domiciles in their life.

Sixty-five percent of men are bald by age 65.

A researcher reports that a sea otter's fur is so thick the water never touches its skin.

The average household piano weighs about 225 pounds.

In London, England, the law requires that if you are driving a car, you must sit in the front seat.



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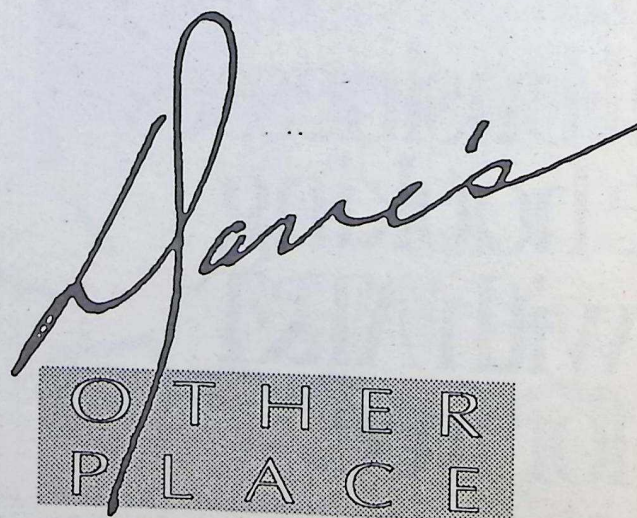
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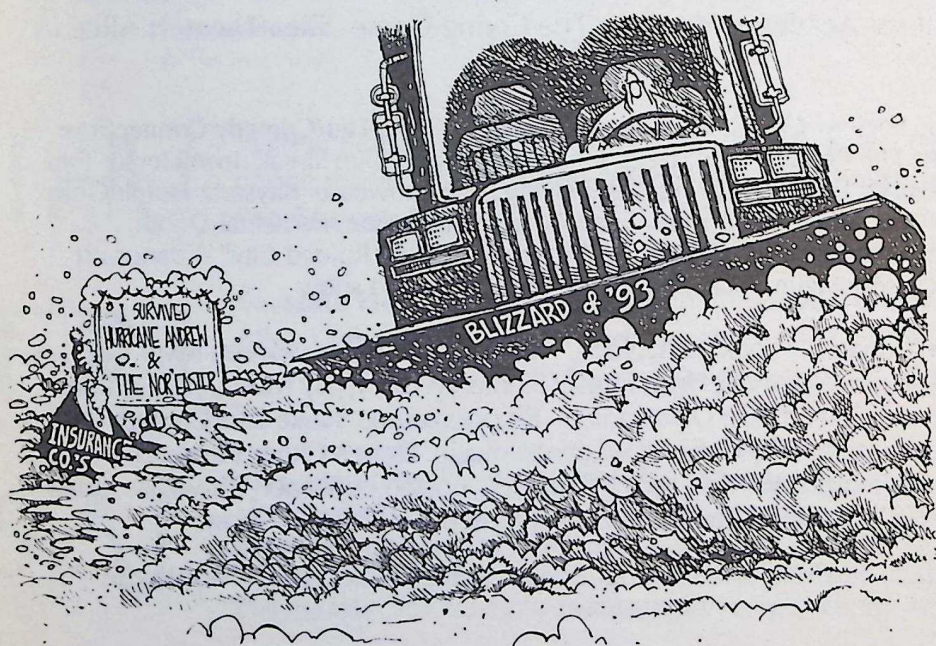
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VISITORS



THU
EIGHT

Iron Horse: Joshua Redman **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret -- Rumblepuppy, The Veronica Cartridges, Mavis **Dave's Other Place:** Bluenatics **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Pearl Street:** The Radiators **Alley Oops:** DJ Bobby C--all requests **Academy of Music:** The Crying Game **Shea Theater:** Alice in Wonderland

FRI
NINE

Alley Oops: Loudmouth **Dave's Other Place:** Café Society **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Polynesian Show **Hotel Northampton:** Tom Kovar, Hal Benoit **Pearl Street:** John Sheldon and Blue Streak **Iron Horse:** Toni Lynn Washington Band **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** Leo T. Baldwin's Boston New Face Showcase **Baystate Hotel:** Good Friday show -- Borderland **Green River Cafe:** Anson Olds **Vertex:** The Mighty Sturgeon, Delusion, Perpetual Doom, Apothecary **Academy of Music:** The Crying Game **Northampton Center for the Arts:** "...Of the Ruined City" -- dance/art performance by J.R. Pongstaphone and Amy Shuck **Montague Book Mill:** Wendy Beal Bevins art show

SAT
TEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret -- Vodka, Envelope, Frances Gumm, Foo **Green River Cafe:** Yagottawanna **Hotel Northampton:** Jac Veronesi, Dave Brunelle **Iron Horse:** Annie Wenz Gypsy Moon, plus Wildest Dreams **Pearl Street:** Upstairs -- California Playgirl Centerfolds; Downstairs -- Rippopotamus **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** David Allen Grier **Alley Oops:** Loudmouth **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** CMI (Coherent Melodic Improvisation) **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** Leo T. Baldwin's Boston new Face Showcase **Shea Theater:** Garry Krinsky (A.M.); Shea Radio Days (P.M.) **Montague Book Mill:** Wendy Beal Bevins art show

SUN
ELEVEN

Iron Horse: Johnny Griffin **Green River Cafe:** The Brelsford/Redlinger Duo **Vertex:** The Vibes **Montague Book Mill:** Wendy Beal Bevins art show

MON
TWELVE

Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Michael Hedges **Green River Cafe:** Free film series -- "Ware"

TUE
THIRTEEN

Iron Horse: Michael Hedges **Montague Book Mill:** Wendy Beal Bevins art show

WED
FOURTEEN

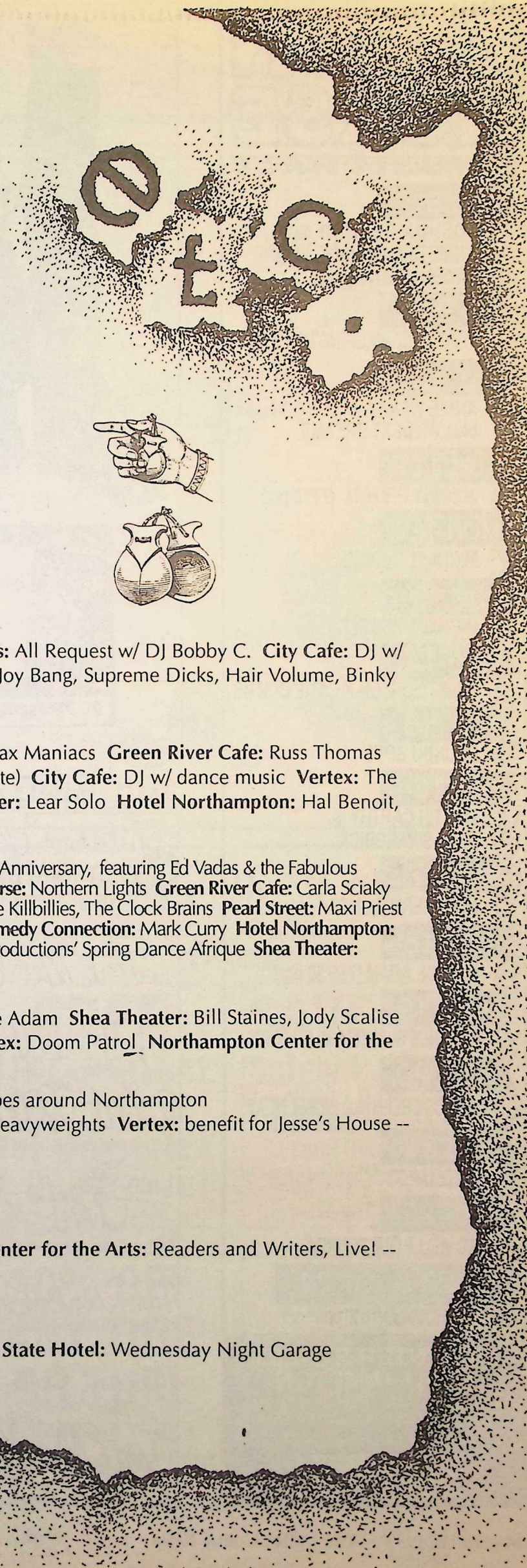
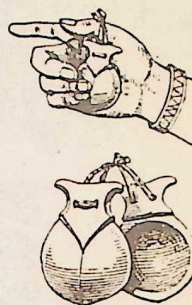
Vertex: Reggae -- New Horizon **Iron Horse:** Jamie Morton and Catie Curtis **Montague Book Mill:** Wendy Beal Bevins art show **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret -- Crain, Zeke Fiddler Four, and special guests





Tim Moran and Tony Vacca
at The Iron Horse

Tobey photo



THU
FIFTEEN

Vertex: Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Bhundu Boys **Alley Oops:** All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** Orphans **Baystate Hotel:** Joy Bang, Supreme Dicks, Hair Volume, Binky **Pearl Street:** Physical Graffiti (Led Zep Tribute)

FRI
SIXTEEN

Baystate Hotel: Rent Party, Monghani **Dave's Other Place:** Sax Maniacs **Green River Cafe:** Russ Thomas **Alley Oops:** Headliners **Pearl Street:** Rattle & Hum (U2 tribute) **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Vertex:** The Lost **Iron Horse:** Martin Carthy, Dave Swarbrick **Shea Theater:** Lear Solo **Hotel Northampton:** Hal Benoit, Tom Savoy

SAT
SEVENTEEN

Alley Oops: Headliners **Dave's Other Place:** Lucille's Blues Letter 1st Anniversary, featuring Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights, plus Jan Norris **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Iron Horse:** Northern Lights **Green River Cafe:** Carla Sciaky **Baystate Hotel:** Bay State Cabaret -- The A-Bones, Angry Johnny & the Killbillies, The Clock Brains **Pearl Street:** Maxi Priest **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Amherst College:** Leah Kunkel **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Mark Curry **Hotel Northampton:** Hal Benoit, Dave Brunelle **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Oyé Productions' Spring Dance Afrique **Shea Theater:**

SUN
EIGHTEEN

Franklin County Chorus

Alley Oops: New Country w/ DJ Mike P. **Iron Horse:** Margie Adam **Shea Theater:** Bill Staines, Jody Scalise **Green River Café:** Poets & Players Series -- Ted Deppe **Vertex:** Doom Patrol **Northampton Center for the**

MON
NINETEEN

Arts: gallery reception for "Featuring the Oxbow" -- landscapes around Northampton

Baystate Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights **Vertex:** benefit for Jesse's House -- Slowpoke

TUE
TWENTY

Iron Horse: Helios Creed plus Diesel Meat **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Readers and Writers, Live! --

WED
TWENTYONE

Marie Howe and Ellen Watson

Iron Horse: June Tabor **Vertex:** Reggae -- New Horizon **Bay State Hotel:** Wednesday Night Garage

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SAT 10

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plus WILDEST DREAMS

SUN 11.

JOHNNY GRIFFIN (7&10 pm)

MON 12.+

MICHAEL HEDGES

TUE 13.+

MICHAEL HEDGES

WED 14+

JAMIE MORTON & CATIE CURTIS

THU 15.

BHUNDU BOYS

FRI 16.+

MARTIN CARTHY &
DAVE SWARBRICK

SAT 17

NORTHERN LIGHTS

SUN 18.+

MARGIE ADAM (7&9:30 pm)

MON 19.

TERENCE BLANCHARD QUARTET

TUE 20

HELIOS CREED plus DIESEL MEAT

WED 21.+

JUNE TABOR

THU 22+

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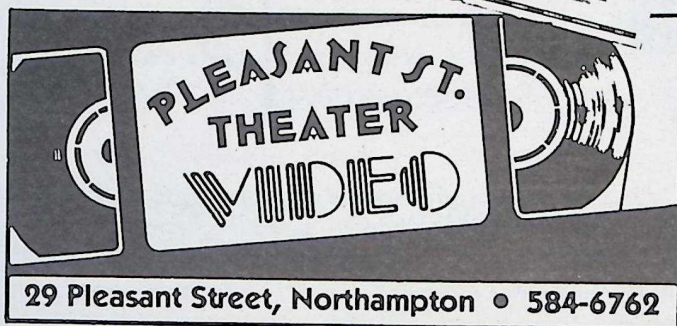
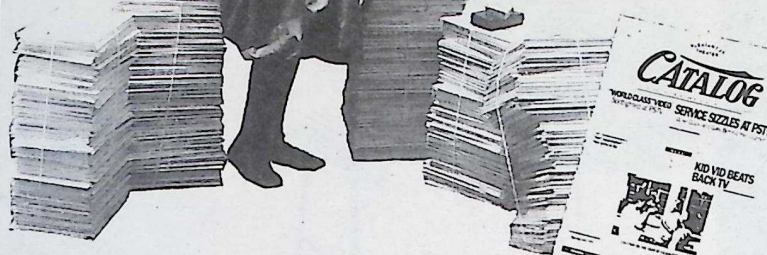
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HUE MEATBOAT (age 13)

① THE GEE-I-WANNA-BE-MISS-BEVANS TYPE

Tint Meatboat

② THE BIG 'N' LOOPY

Tint Meatboat

③ THE CURSIVE BIG 'N' LOOPY (alternate dot convention)

Tint Meatboat

④ THINKIN' 'BOUT HORSES

Tint Meatboat

⑤a THE I-GOT-MARRIED-OVER-RECESS SWITCHEROO

Mrs. Tint Gaddy

⑤b THE HILLARY COROLLARY (wishful thinking?)

Mrs. Tint Gaddy-Meatboat

⑥ THE FRENCH SPOKESMODEL EXTENSION

Tint Meatboat

① THE CAKEFREE ROCK STAR/CELEBRITY ATHLETE JERAWL

Hue Meatboat

② CHEEZY TECHNOFONT CITY

HUE MEATBOAT

③ THE JUNIOR PENTAGON APOLOGIST RENDITION

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④ "LOVE THEM INITIALS"

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⑤ ADVENTURES IN BLOCK LETTERING

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⑥ THE MR. SUAVE FANTASIES

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I will not put spiders in Traci's hair again. H-M-L-L
I will not put spiders in Traci's hair again. H-M-L-L
I will not put spiders in Traci's hair again. H-M-L-L
I will not put spiders in Traci's hair again. H-M-L-L

*Thanks to K.M. & A.S. for their input. Esp. ⑤a. I woulda never thunk it.

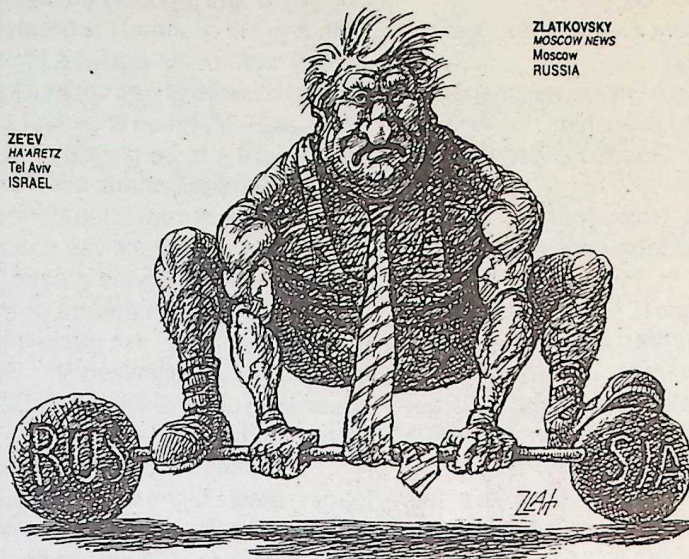
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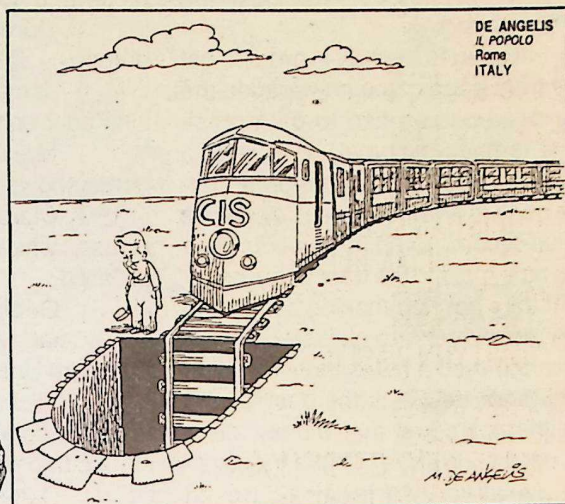
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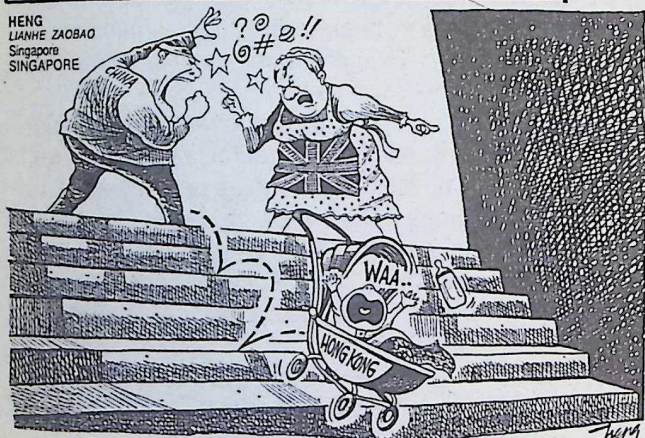
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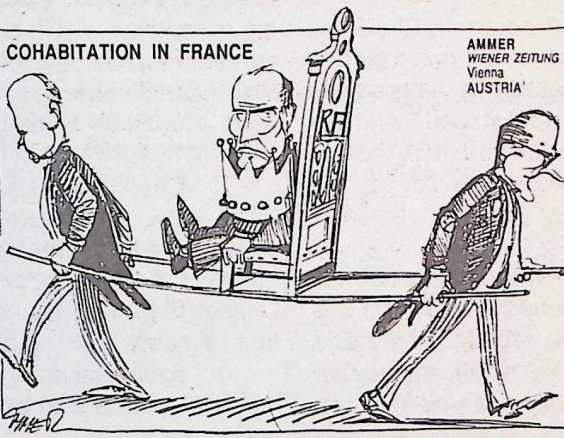
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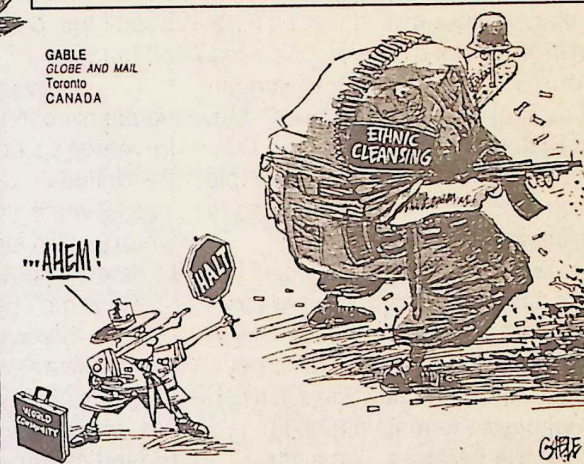


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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Lately I've been trying to figure out what you have to do to get a great obituary written about you. Besides die, of course. Because it seems like all the rules are changing.

It used to be that, in order to get on the front page of the newspaper, the newly dead person had to be a president, a famous diplomat, or at least a millionaire. Now all the front-page coverage goes to somebody who starred in a sixties sitcom. Even *millionaires* have a hard time making the front page, especially if they got rich making something boring, like industrial pipe fasteners. It's not that the media hates industrial pipe fasteners, or despises the people who make them, it's just that *money alone* won't get the job done. This is true *even if you give all your money away*. It used to be that, when a millionaire left \$100 million in his will for a new hospital wing, everyone would say, "Isn't that wonderful? The Rutherford Hollingsworth Memorial Diabetes Clinic. What a public-spirited guy he was." But today, people just say, "Look at the old fool trying to buy some fame for himself."

Here's a little experiment. I picked a day at random, and wrote down the ten most famous people who died that day — to see what it takes to get a good obit. Here's the list. See if you can guess who got the most attention:

Dana Andrews, film actor,

Charles Blessing, architect and city planner,

Howard Cann, retired New York University basketball coach, Sybil Claiborne, antiwar protester and novelist, Dorothy Dinnerstein, feminist author,

James A Goode, national magazine editor and publisher,

Mark Goodson, producer of game shows,

Clara Hale, founder of Hale House, which took care of neglected children,

Georgia L. McMurray, pioneering social worker and professor at Fordham University,

Yitzhak Ernst Nebenzahl, Israeli freedom fighter and former New York state comptroller.

Okay. Now. First let's talk about the people who got the *worst* obituaries:

Dorothy Dinnerstein: She wrote academic books that became "classics in women's studies departments across the United States and abroad." And she was 69 years old, almost exactly the age when people start expecting death. So the media figures: academic, feminist, she was old ... Big Yawn.

Yitzhak Ernst Nebenzahl: He lived halfway around the world. He was 85 years old. And nobody in the media *remembers* the Haganah, the underground movement he served in Palestine before 1948, when Israel was founded. So Nebenzahl committed the

fatal crime when it comes to the obit page: he lived too long.

Howard Cann: In a fair world, this guy would probably get the biggest obituary. He coached the greatest basketball team of his era, at a time when college basketball was not that popular. Then, in 1934, he arranged for the first college game to be played at Madison Square Garden, where his New York University Violets defeated Notre Dame. This game, which received national attention because it was played at the Garden, ushered in the era of modern college basketball. He made the sport popular. He legitimized it. So why doesn't anybody remember? Because he lived to be 97.

James A. Goode: Normally a leading media figure would get plenty of ink, because the media honors its own. But Goode was the editor of the following magazines at different times in his career: Playboy, Playgirl, Penthouse, Viva, Oui, Film News International, Platinum, The Robb Report, Hustler, and Chic. Whoops! Wrong media.

Charles Blessing: Some architects and city planners get attention, especially if they build flashy skyscrapers, like I.M. Pei or Robert Johnson. But Charles Blessing designed modern Detroit. Whoops! Wrong city.

Sybil Claiborne: Sorry, this is the wrong decade to be known as an antiwar protestor.

Georgia L. McMurray: Sorry, this

is the wrong decade to be a social worker. And that leaves the only three who were deemed worthy of *large* obituaries:

Clara Hale: She took care of babies all her life. She was 87. She was poor. She didn't work for any bureaucracy. And she *was still doing it when she died*. If she'd stopped doing it when she was 67, she would have been back there in the rear with Howard Cann and the others.

The second largest obit went to Dana Andrews, who made hit movies in the forties, notably "The Best Years of Our Lives," but who didn't work much after the late fifties. So we need to figure this one out. Since he hadn't done anything newsworthy for 30 years, it doesn't make sense that his obit would be so large. What makes him different? *I've got it!* All of his movies are *so old* they've been seen 17 jillion times on free TV. Everybody *thinks* they know this guy.

But the number-one obit that day didn't go to an actor, a social worker, a novelist, sports figure or architect. The biggest obit went to Mark Goodson, inventor of "What's My Line?," "To Tell the Truth," "The Price Is Right," "Family Feud," "I've Got a Secret," and "The Match Game."

Now, *this*, says the obit writer, is something I understand.

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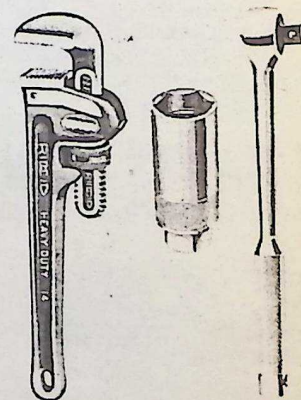
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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Earthquakes

A swarm of violent tremors rocked southwestern Greece, causing extensive damage in the town of Pyrgos and killing at least one person. The Pyrgos hospital was so badly damaged that it had to be closed, and many families were forced to sleep outdoors because their homes were in danger of collapsing.

A moderate quake centered in the Philippine resort of Puerto Galera on Mindoro Island caused panic 80 miles away in Manila where tall buildings swayed.

Tremors were also felt along the border between Chile and Bolivia, and in southeast Iran, Austria, Missouri, Iowa, and along the Columbia River in the Pacific Northwest.

Spring Snow

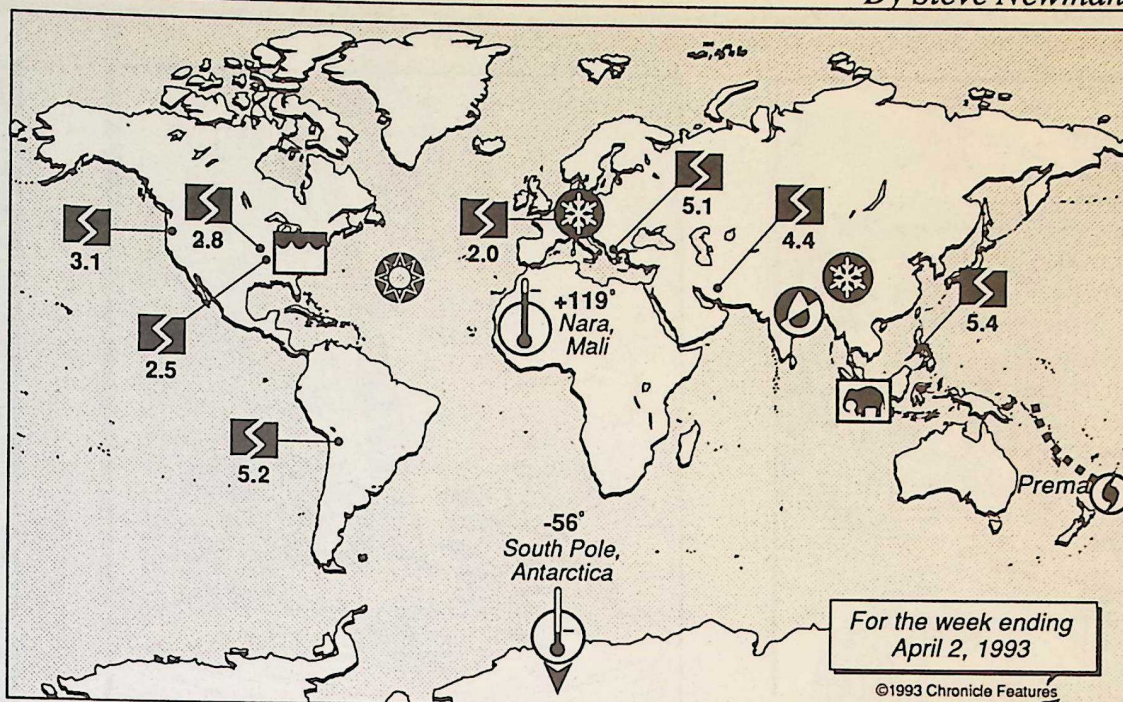
A third consecutive month of heavy snowfall in China's Qinghai Province has killed more than 260,000 domestic animals. The storms are also blamed for causing 16,000 people to suffer from frostbite, snow blindness, measles, and flu.

Thousands of drivers were trapped in their cars for several hours after heavy snowfall blocked Germany's Nuremberg-Berlin motor way. About 50 vehicles were involved in a pileup on an icy roadway between the eastern towns of Gera and Erfurt.

Floods

Rain, melting snow, and frozen ground combined to caused widespread flooding in many parts of the eastern United States. Rivers and streams from the Appalachian Mountains to New England were overflowing their banks, and there seemed to be no end in sight to the rainy weather.

Nearly two dozen people below a dam in central Pennsylvania were evacuated after snowmelt and rain threatened to burst the structure.



UV Warning

The World Health Organization warned sports enthusiasts and sun-lovers of the increased danger of skin cancer caused by the thinning of the stratospheric ozone layer. The disease is now reaching epidemic proportions among many fair-skinned nationalities. Worst-hit are people in Canada, the U.S., and Australia, and Northern Europe has seen "a rapid rise" in the number of malignant melanoma cases.

Tropical Storm

The worst cyclone to strike the island nation of Vanuatu in six years killed at least three people and caused widespread destruction to crops and buildings in the sparsely populated islands of Makura and Mataso. Cyclone Prema went on to lash the French territory of New Caledonia before losing force over the cooler waters of the South Pacific.

Mother of All Rivers

Iraq, known as the cradle of civilization and land of the ancient Tigris and Euphrates rivers, has opened its third new waterway in a year. The 87-mile-long Qadissiya River, branching off from the Euphrates, was dug by 4,500 workers and 3,100 machines in 45 days according to official reports. It joins the Saddam River and the Mother of Battles River as the latest government effort to alter the economy and politics of southern Iraq. U.N. human-rights investigators and Iraqi opponents of President Saddam Hussein have denounced the project, saying it is aimed at damaging the wetland sanctuary of the Marsh Arabs, a traditional refuge for political fugitives.

Famine

An extended drought in Bihar, one of India's poorest states, has withered crops in more than 3,000 villages. In

the hardest-hit areas, villagers are feeding on a broth made from a wild-flower called mahua.

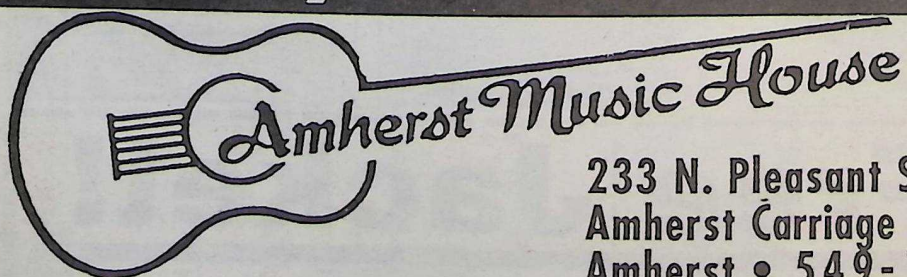
Beasts of Burden

An experimental program in Indonesia is attempting to train wild elephants to plow fields in Lampung Province, a task traditionally assigned to oxen and buffaloes. Only about 350 of the endangered animals remain in Lampung's forests. As their habitat is destroyed by human encroachment, they frequently rampage through populated areas. The elephants in the training program are among those rounded up after they had trampled through fields and villages.

In addition to the five pachyderms forced to learn how to plow, 83 others are being trained in skills from playing soccer to carrying logs.

Additional Sources: Australian Bureau of Meteorology, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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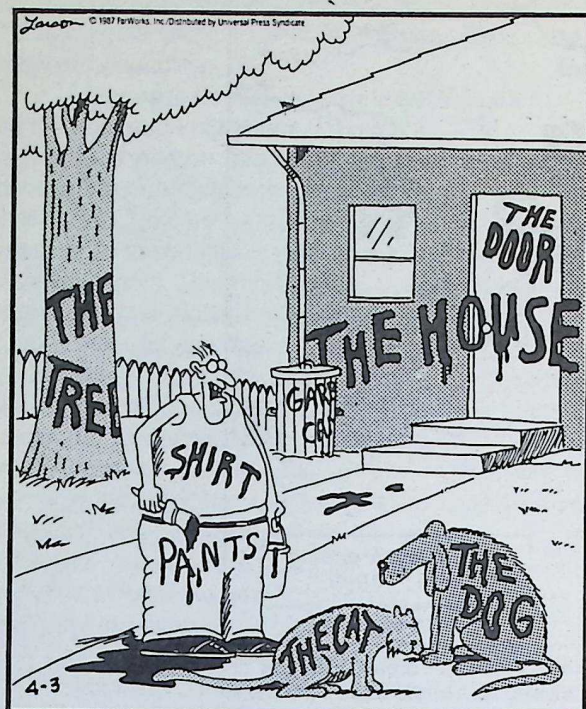
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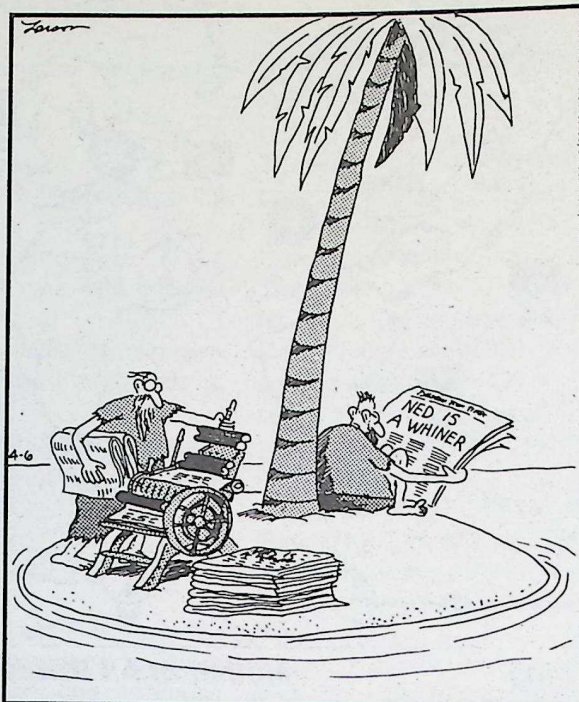
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THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"Now! ... That should clear up a few things around here."

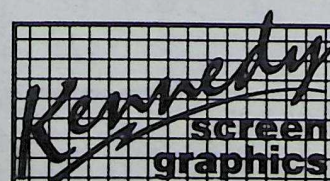
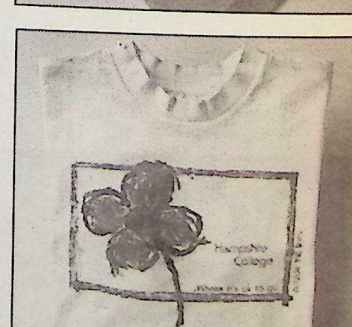
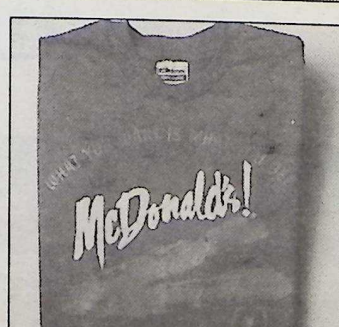
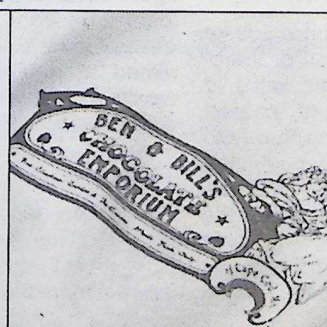
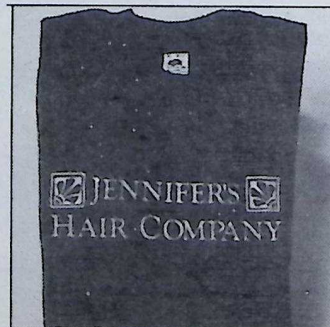


Hot off the press, the very first edition of the Desert Island Times caused the newspaper to quickly fold.



"No doubt about it, boys. ... See these markings on the bottom? This is an Apache pie pan!"

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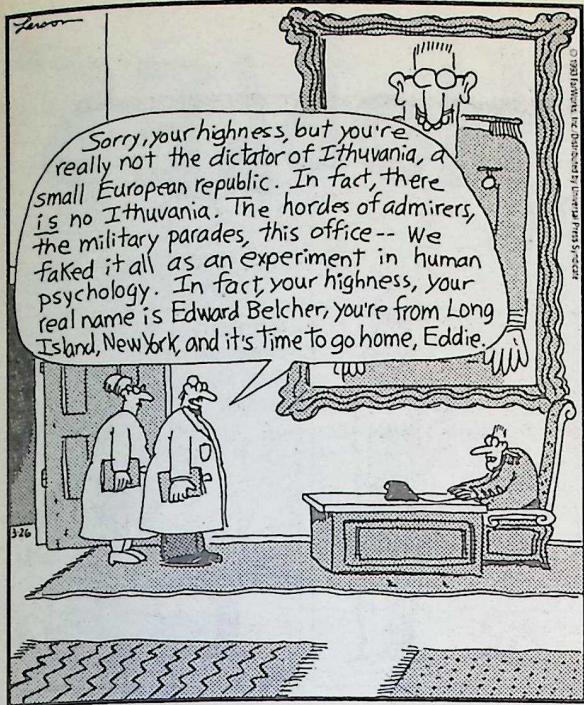
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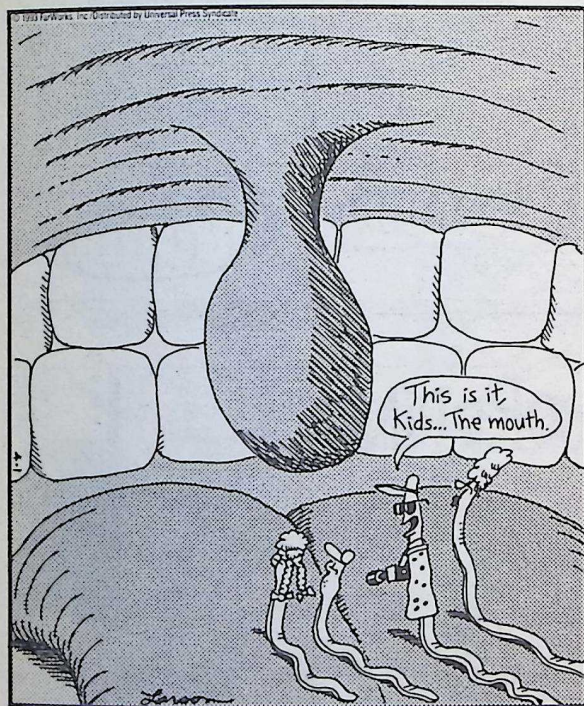
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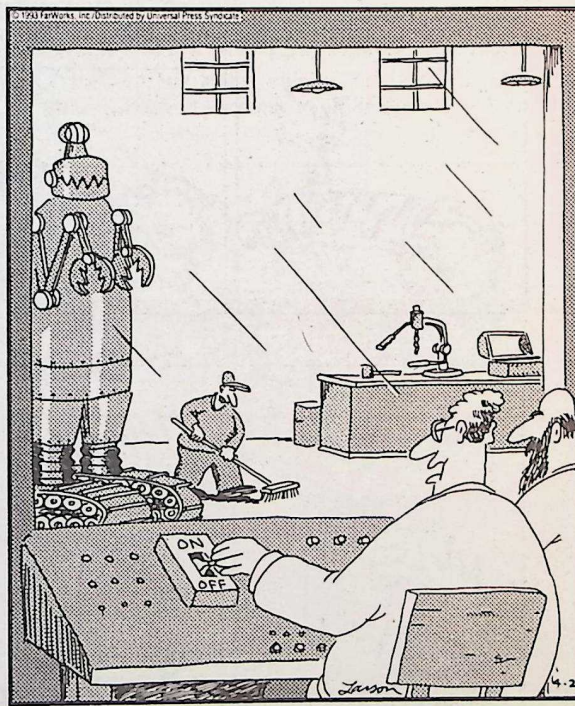
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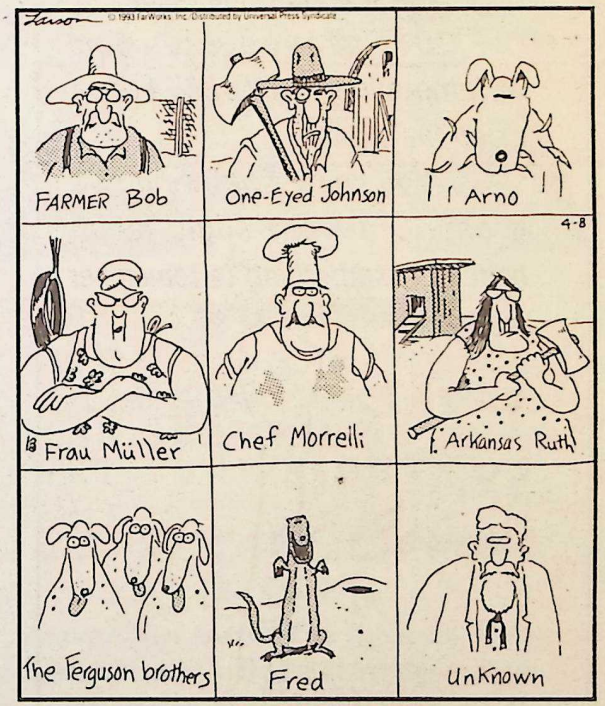
Scene from "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Ed"



Tapeworms on vacation



"Hey, who's that? ... Oh — Mitch, the janitor. Well, our first test run has just gotten a little more interesting."



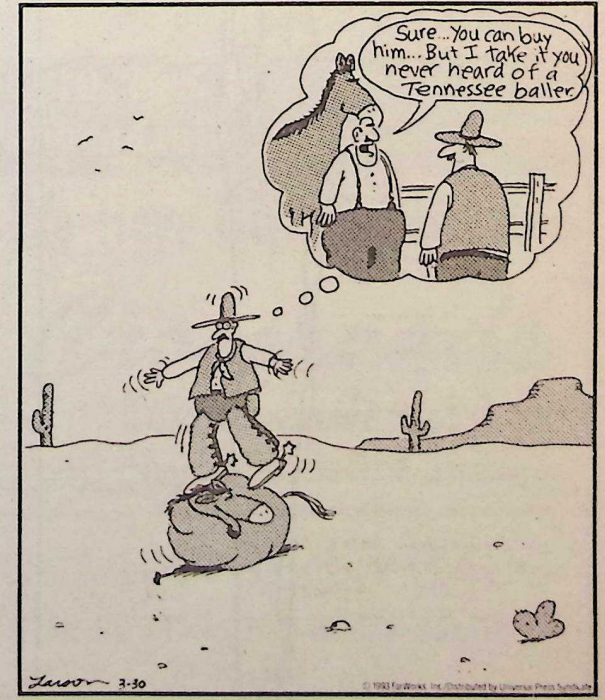
Chicken serial killers



How Santa first came to the New World



Drive-by erasings



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON

My ex-girlfriend Sheila is hassling me about who owns this special gold edition Batman comic book.

She says its hers.

I think its mine.

Really I don't care.

I'd just like to totally end this whole thing with her.

This break-up torments me.

I can't sleep well.

I wish it would go away.

I wish she'd go off and die somewhere.

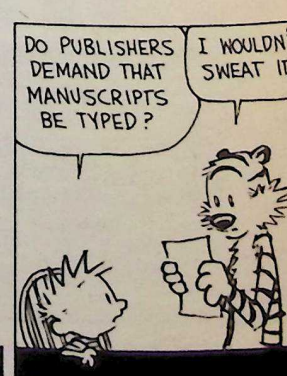
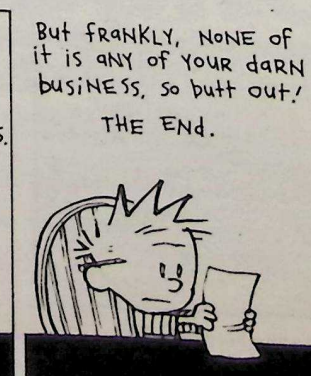
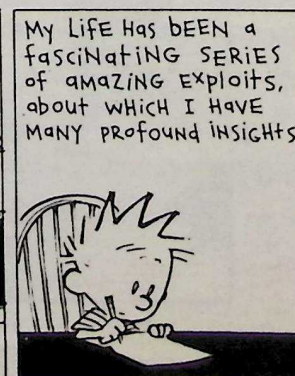
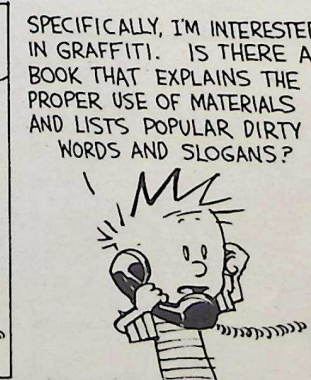
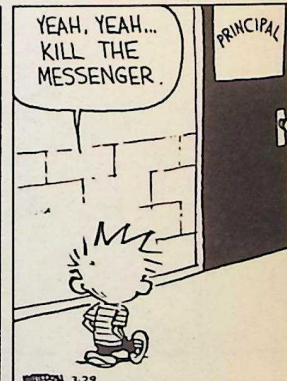
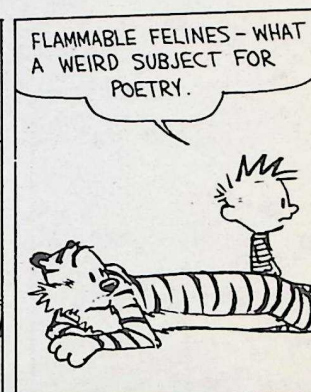
No, no I don't mean that.

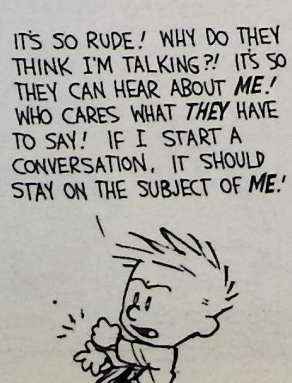
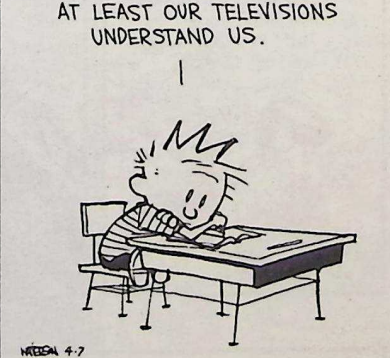
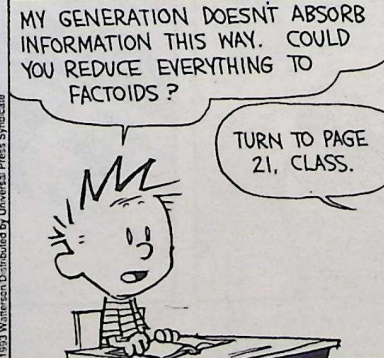
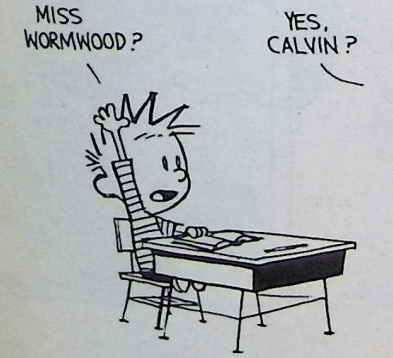
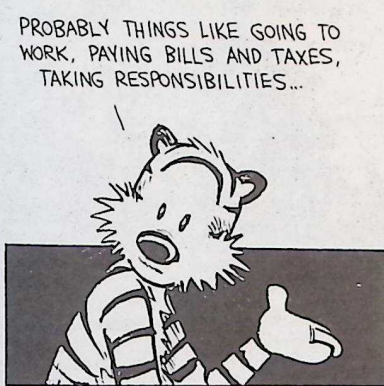
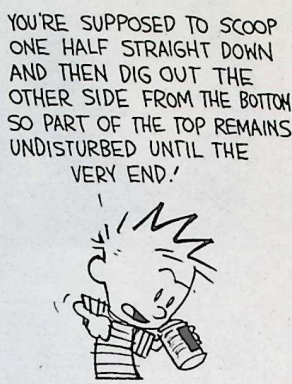
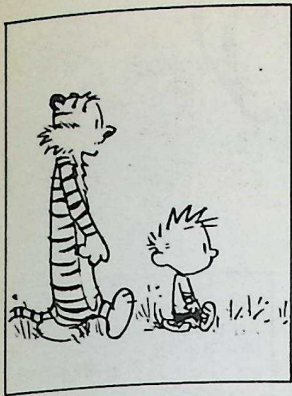
But maybe she could develop a limp. No, no, I don't mean that either.

You know what would be nice?... a very slight facial twitch.....something to remember me by.



DON'T SHAVE NEXT TO YOUR MOUTH, OK? LET THE WHISKERS GROW ABOUT A FOOT LONG AND THEN WAX 'EM SO THEY STICK STRAIGHT OUT! THEN YOU'LL LOOK LIKE A BIG CAT!





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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

Two trends--babyhood and psychedilia--are now traipsing through the teen and twenty-something generations. This unlikely combination of ornamentation and recreation neatly symbolizes the attitude of today; change is everything and any reality is preferable to the one we have. "Be anywhere but here now," the guru preaches. The ideal decade to recycle, according to this philosophy, is the 70's. Let's take it all (excluding free love)--the clothes, the music, the drugs, the outlook--and make believe the future is rosy. Sounds like a good idea, except the last thing I want to encounter is a hallucinating teenager sucking on a pacifier and gushing about the awesome shapes her spit makes as she drools.

My advice to the generational reconstructionists is "don't look back." In those days, all we needed was love. Now, we need condoms. Then, we had an enemy. Someone to personify the evil that the establishment feeds off. Now, where is Richard Nixon when we require him? Mostly, what's missing today is the naiveté of youth, which explains the return to the toddler stage. It's a topsy-turvy world when there is more discussion about intercourse in an elementary classroom than in a bar. Pretty soon, kids will be wanting to know why they have to study sex when they never get to use it. What good is sex education when you can't utilize the information? Sort of like Trig or Latin to previous generations.

The resurgent popularity of LSD is not surprising, because I recently received a message from my old dealer asking for residuals on my flashbacks. He is now involved in a multi-level marketing plan where acid is the product, but the real money comes from being a distributor and signing folks up to host Tripper Ware parties. Actually, this drug development should lead to an interesting presidential campaign in 2016. "I tried LSD in the 90's," one candidate will explain. "But I didn't hallucinate."

What can modern acid heads see in their hallucinations that hasn't been pictured in a Terminator movie or a music video? You know, young readers, people taking acid in the 70's used their imagination to see things that weren't there. Kids these days got it easy; you already know about artificial reality, laser beams, computer graphics and Claymation. What's left to hallucinate about? You can't even stare at a record as it goes around and make believe you're watching licorice be born.

If you are going to trip, let me recommend a popular art form of the 70's--the mobile. When you bring it back, please make sure the signature is Calder, not Fisher-Price. You might also want to experiment with finger-painting. This is a great art form for pacifier-sucking hallucinators; perfect if you've just taken acid, perfect if you've just taken pabulum. A gallery of finger-painted art would have paintings attached by magnets to refrigerator doors.

I worry mostly about the music. Will musicians like as Raffi and Rosenshontz start to draw older audiences and play arenas? Oh, God! 15,000 teenagers peeing into denim diapers, sucking pacifiers, and holding Flintstone lighters aloft while screaming "Raffi! Raffi! Raffi!" until the public address announcer is forced to come on and inform the crowd that Raffi has left the building.

Will Hollywood hotshots open a nightclub called The Playpen and cater to the new juveniles? Look inside and see couples dancing to the Rolling Stones' version of "Itsy Bitsy Spider," while boys and girls on the make promise to "show you mine if you show me yours."

The club's menu is highlighted by mashed cheeseburgers, blended french fries and booger-sized popcorn chicken. For more formal affairs, Sly Stallone's "Gerber's House of Strained Vegetables" offers a food fight section and potty chairs. As you enter, a maitre-d' brings you to your table, lays a plastic sheet on the floor and leaves a basket of teething rings to chew on while your food is being prepared.

This whole essay may itself sound like a drug-induced hallucination. Is it any stranger than bar sumo wrestling or human bowling? I think not.

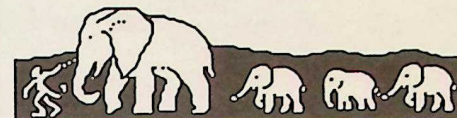
Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

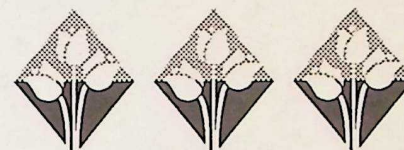




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- 1 Ride on open trails only.** Respect trails and road closures, private property, and requirements for permits and authorization. Federal and state wilderness areas are closed to cycling, and some park and forest trails are also off limits.
- 2 Leave no trace.** Don't ride when ground will be marred, such as on certain soils after a rain. Never ride off the trail, skid your tires, or discard any object. Strive to pack out more than you pack in.
- 3 Control your bicycle.** Inattention for even a second can cause disaster. Excessive speed frightens and injures people, gives mountain biking a bad name, and, ultimately, results in trail closures.
- 4 Always yield.** Make your approach known well in advance. A friendly greeting is considerate and appreciated. Show your respect when passing others by slowing to walking speed or even stopping, especially in the presence of horses. Anticipate that other trail users may be around corners or in blind spots.
- 5 Never spook animals.** Give them extra room and time to adjust to you. Running livestock and disturbing wild animals is a serious offense. Leave ranch and farm gates as you find them, or as marked.
- 6 Plan ahead.** Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding—and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times, keep your bike in good repair, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather. Keep trails open by setting an example of responsible cycling for all to see.

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